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battleground for international socialists who cared more to bring on the world revolution than to benefit her common people, and international capitalists who cared more to vindicate the property rights of the bourgeoisie than to benefit her common people."

This statement seems to imply that in the absence of Bolshevik interference, the Constituent Assembly might have remained in control, and intervention might perhaps have been averted. The answer is that on the showing of the author himself, the seizure of the factories was already about as well advanced as the seizure of the estates; no Government that *disapproved* either seizure could very well have held out against the spontaneous and extra-political movement of the Russian masses; and in all probability, no Government that *approved* either seizure could have kept peace with the international capitalists to whom the author refers.

However, when a book upon a highly controversial subject is in general so fair and forthright, so well informed, and so ably organized as this one, such exceptions as have been taken here are of secondary importance. The impressive fact, the fact worth remembering, is that after several years of journalism and impressionism, personalia, propaganda and piffle, a competent and, upon the whole, a successful attempt has at last been made to bring the Russian revolution within the field of history.

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New Viewpoints in American History. By ARTHUR MEIER SCHLESINGER. New York. The Macmillan Company, 1922.—x, 299 pp.

American historiography is richly furnished with treatises on political philosophy and constitutional theory from the days of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson down. In the field of detailed narrative, too, the names of a score of writers from H. L. Osgood and Henry Adams to James Ford Rhodes and E. P. Oberholtzer witness to the excellence and fullness of the treatment of every period of our history. But in one form of historical writing we have been sadly deficient. The interpretative essay, dealing in suggestive summary with persistent influences or with changing ideals through successive generations, has found few authors in our country to set beside the names of the Guizots, the Actons and the Freytags of Europe. Yet this distillation of the facts of history, this interpretation and popu-

larization of chronicle, statute and usage, is obviously the most useful, and, indeed, ultimately, the only useful function of historical writing.

Professor Schlesinger has made a valuable contribution to the interpretation of American history in the volume before us. It consists of twelve essays on a variety of topics ranging from such familiar subjects as "The American Revolution" and "The Significance of the Jacksonian Democracy" to unusual titles like "The Decline of Aristocracy in America" and "The Rôle of Women in American History". The object of the book, as the author modestly says in the preface, is "to bring together and summarize in non-technical language some of the results of the researches of the present era of historical study, and to show their importance to a proper understanding of American history". All serious students of our history realize the obligation to revise traditional opinions and reconsider accepted valuations which have been placed upon them by the work of specialists in the last twenty years or so—men like Beer and Andrews in the field of our colonial relations with the mother country; men like Beard and McLaughlin in the interpretation of the Constitution; men like Turner, Thwaites and Alvord in the vindication of the influence of the West in our history. The results of their researches have been appearing in increasing measure in our textbooks. But Professor Schlesinger is the first writer to attempt to synthesize the new points of view in a popular restatement of the most significant epochs of our history from colonial days to the present.

In this difficult task Professor Schlesinger has been remarkably successful. Not only does his book fulfil the most exigent requirements of a "popular" work in its sustained hold on the reader, its admirable style, its skilful use of analogy and allusion; but it satisfies the demand of the scholar as well. The author moves with ease and confidence amidst a great mass of fact and hypothesis, provoking the dissent or misgiving of the critic only on the rarest occasions. Not the least valuable feature of the book is the addition of discriminating notes at the end of the chapters, which not only furnish the "documentation" for the author's views, but also, in welcome contrast to most perfunctory "bibliographies", really tell the reader what books he should read and make him want to read them.

Two or three of the essays deal with a special crisis at a given moment in American history, like the American Revolution and the period of the formation of the Constitution; but the general plan of

the author is to trace some important topic like immigration, radicalism, the rôle of women, the party spirit, or the doctrine of states rights through the whole course of our history, showing its protean changes under different political, social or economic conditions, and estimating its significance for our history in general. It would be impossible, within the limits of this review, to give any analysis of these clever summaries. Among the best of them are the chapters dealing with the economic forces in American history (II), the decline of aristocracy in America (IV), radicalism and conservatism (V), and the "Fetish" of states rights (X). Often the author has condensed into a single striking sentence the gist of a chapter. What could be happier, for example, than: "By joining in political wedlock the two principles of protection and national internal improvements, he [Clay] hoped to bind the Northeast and the West in a political alliance solidified by the consciousness of mutual economic advantage" (p. 64); or "Like Rostand's *Chantecler,* his [Jackson's] crowing did not summon the sun of a new dawn, but his voice rang out in clarion tones when the morning light was breaking" (p. 218); or "The group advocating states rights in any period have sought its shelter in much the same spirit that a Western pioneer seeks his storm-cellar when a tornado is raging" (p. 243).

There are, naturally, a few points on which a critic would take issue with Professor Schlesinger. He gives the dates of the "Middle Period" of American history as 1800-1860 (p. 58); he puts the general level of the tariff act of 1828 too high (p. 65); he spells the treaty of 1848 with Mexico "Guadaloupe Hidalgo" (p. 67); he speaks of Jefferson and his friends "introducing a more democratic spirit into the system provided for electing the president, by seeing to it that the presidential electors merely registered the will of the voters" (p. 85); he speaks of "the abolition of child labor" as an accomplished reform! (p. 113); he narrows the industrial revolution in England to "merely a revolution in manufacturing processes" in contrast to the wider revolution in agriculture and transportation in the United States (p. 249); ignoring the Greenback movement, he calls the free silver campaign "the first stentorian demand for a consideration of homely and purely human interests in national politics" (p. 279). There are a few infelicities of expression also, which are perhaps the more noticeable in a book of exceptional excellence of form. By a curious inadvertence the author sums up "unaccustomed tax burdens, the loss of trading profits, and limitations of self-government" as "advantages that

were none the less precious because derived from an unwritten and unsanctioned constitution" (p. 164). He speaks of South Carolina as "a different quarter of the Union" from Georgia (p. 228), and he excludes Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland and Delaware from the "solid South" (p. 276). "The Hudson-Mohawk river system of *western* New York" (p. 32) is obviously a slip of the pen.

In the reviewer's opinion, it would be impossible to name a book of greater usefulness and suggestion to the advanced student of American history, or of more solid information in attractive form to the general educated reader who is interested to know the latest results of scholarly research in the field of American history, than these illuminating essays of Professor Schlesinger's. They will bear reading and re-reading before either the charm of their presentation or the profit of their contents is exhausted.

DAVID SAVILLE MUZZEY

Insurance Against Unemployment. By JOSEPH L. COHEN. London, P. S. King and Son, Ltd., 1921.—536 pp.

Mr. Cohen has prepared a useful survey and a just estimate of the various plans of unemployment insurance. A description of the Ghent System as exhibited in its various forms in Belgium, France, Norway, Holland, Denmark and Germany shows the inadequacy of a system based on the voluntary principle. The bulk of the volume is given to the British system, as the first large scheme of compulsory insurance; the author shows that it introduces some factors that tend to increase the amount of unemployment, and others which tend to diminish it. The former consist in weakening the motive of employers to furnish steady work, because of the knowledge that the workman has an insurance fund to fall back upon (p. 297). The latter consist in the weeding-out of unemployables, the motivation of all parties to the wage contract to reduce unemployment, the regularization of wages, the experimentation that has been induced on the part of employers towards regularization, and the considerable reduction in numbers of inmates of poor-houses. Very detailed accounts and valuable comments are furnished on the actual working of the system in all its ramifications. Some of the experiments of leading employers are recited. The Italian and Austrian imitations, in 1920, of the British plan are briefly described. It is concluded that in Great Britain the scheme has been the greatest bulwark against revolution, and its withdrawal could not be attempted without precipitating a crisis (p. 246).